

KANSAS BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

MEDIA RELEASE

July 31, 2006

In 1999, KBI Director Larry Welch took considerable pleasure in announcing that KBI Forensic Laboratory Director Mike VanStratton had achieved the forensic distinction of being named as one of only 19 forensic scientists in the world certified as a Bloodstain Pattern Examiner.

Such certification is only awarded by the International Association for Identification and requires a minimum of 280 hours of specialized training, a minimum of 3 years of practical experience and successful completion of a very challenging written examination.

Today, Director Welch, with even more pride, announces that the Kansas Bureau of Investigation has now achieved the prestigious distinction of having 2 of only 28 certified Bloodstain Pattern Examiners in the world.

The International Association for Identification has announced the certification of KBI Forensic Scientist Holly Wasinger of the KBI's Great Bend Forensic Laboratory.

Bloodstain analysis is a forensic science that examines blood patterns and spatter at crime scenes to determine characteristics of the weapon, angle of attack, position of victim and assailant, number of blows and other vital crime scene information.

The International Association for Identification was created in 1915 and is the oldest and largest forensic organization in the world.

Director Welch noted, *"The KBI continues to strive to provide Kansas law enforcement with the finest forensic service available anywhere. Holly Wasinger's certification, like that of Mike VanStratton before her, is a tribute to her hard work and will be another great forensic resource for Kansas law enforcement."*

With KBI Laboratory Director Mike VanStratton at Topeka and KBI Forensic Scientist Holly Wasinger at Great Bend, the KBI's unique certified bloodstain examination expertise is more available than ever before across the state to the Kansas criminal justice system.

"I applaud Forensic Scientist Wasinger's accomplishment in becoming one of only 28 certified bloodstain examiners in the world," said Kansas Attorney General Phill Kline. *"It is more proof of the hard work and determination demonstrated every day by the men and women who work for the Kansas Bureau of Investigation. And the fact our state now has two such individuals shows the dedication the KBI has in supporting our investigators with the tools they need to track down those who harm innocent Kansans."*

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